

d) Remarks.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 11, 17-18, 25-27, and 30-31. Applicant has added new claim 44 and claims 10, 21-24, 28-29, and 33-43 are canceled. Support for the amendments to claim 1 and new claim 44 can be found throughout the specification. Specifically, in Figure 1 and the corresponding description. Support for the amendments to claims 17 and 25 can be found in paragraphs [0033]-[0034]. The amendments to the remaining claims were merely to bring them into agreement. No new matter or new issues have been introduced with these amendments and Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-20, 25-27, 30-32, and 44 are pending.

Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 6-9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 42 and 43 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over by Prosen (U.S. Patent No. 5,035,558) in view of Crowley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,620). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and incorporates herein all of Applicant's remarks that were made with respect to Prosen in the prosecution history of this application.

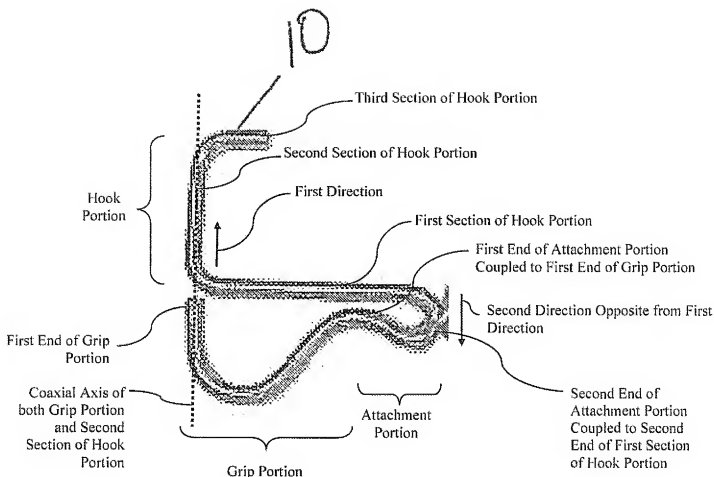
Independent claims 1, as amended, and 44 each recite, in part:

a hook portion formed from a first section, a second section coupled perpendicularly to a first end of the first section in a first direction, and a third section coupled perpendicularly to a first end of the second section and parallel to the first portion;

a grip portion having a first end adjacent to and coaxial with the second section; and

an attachment portion having a first end coupled to a second end of the grip portion and a second end coupled, in a second direction opposite from the first direction, to the second end of the first section, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected;

Applicant asserts that neither Prosen nor Crowley, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of these elements. In order to further clarify the above claim language, Applicant has reproduced a portion of Figure 1 below with indications as to each recited element.



From Figure 1

As can be seen above and recited in the claims, the device has three portions: a hook portion, a grip portion, and an attachment portion. The hook portion is comprised of three sections: a first section, a second section, and a third section. The first section and the second section are coupled together in a perpendicular arrangement. The second section and the third section are also coupled together in a perpendicular arrangement so that the first section and the third section are parallel to each other. The attachment portion and the grip portion are coupled together so that the second section of the hook portion and the grip portion extend in opposite directions from opposite ends of the first section of the hook portion.

Thus, for illustrative purposes, as can be seen in the portion of Figure 1 reproduced above, the second section of the hook portion extends above the first section of the hook portion while the attachment portion extends below the first section of the hook portion. Thus, the first section of the hook portion is in the middle of the device. Additionally, the grip portion is arranged so that one end of the grip portion is adjacent to the second section of the hook portion. The grip portion is further arranged so that the axis of the end of the grip portion is coaxial to the axis of the second section of the hook portion (see the dotted line above).

As can be seen in Figure 5 of Prosen (the Examiner's marked up version is reproduced below), the attachment portion 13, the grip portion, and the hook portion are all on the same side of what the Examiner has marked as the first section. Thus the first section is at an outer (upper) edge of the device and the attachment portion does not have "a second end coupled, in a section direction opposite from the first direction, to the second end of the first section" as recited in the claims of the instant application. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that the grip portion does not have an "end that is adjacent to and coaxial with the second section," as recited in the claims of the instant application. In fact, Applicant asserts that the grip portion is merely an extended segment of the second section and has no end. Even if the grip portion is considered to be a separate portion, grip portion would be parallel to the second section, not coaxial. Therefore, Applicant asserts that Prosen does not disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application.

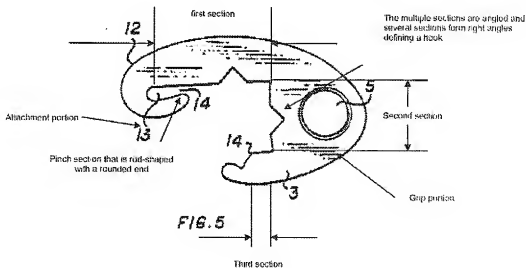


Figure 5 of Prosen as marked up by the Examiner in the Office Action of 4/28/09

With regard to Crowley, Applicant asserts that Crowley does not teach or disclose a grip portion. Furthermore, Applicant asserts that even if Crowley and Prosen were combined, the device of the instant application would not be achieved. Neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in either reference, combining the two references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Thus, since neither Crowley nor Prosen, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 2-4, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Chuan (U.S. Patent No. 4,831,692). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks made in regard to claims 1, 6-9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 42 and 43. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in either reference, combining the two references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Applicant further asserts that Chuan does not cure this deficiency. Thus, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Chuan, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Roethler (U.S. Patent No. D357,402). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks made in regard to claims 1, 6-9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 42 and 43. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in either reference, combining the two references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Roethler does show the attachment portion and the grip portion on an opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. However, Roethler does not show or suggest the end of the grip section adjacent to or coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Therefore, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Roethler, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 22-38, 30, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Roethler and Chuan. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Chaun disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Chaun disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in the references, combining the references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Roethler does show the attachment portion and the grip portion on an opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. However, Roethler does not show or suggest the end of the grip section adjacent to or coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Therefore, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Roethler nor Chaun, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Simon (U.S. Patent No. 3,328,064). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks made in regard to claims 1, 6-9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 42 and 43. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in either reference, combining the two references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Applicant further asserts that Simon does not cure this deficiency. Thus, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Simon, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Roethler, Chuan, and Simon. Applicant asserts that claim 29 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in view of Yonts (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,236). Applicant asserts that the element of the grip portion attached to the first section of the hook portion has been deleted and thus the rejection is moot.

Claim 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Schrader (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,327). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks made in regard to claims 1, 6-9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 42 and 43. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second

section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in either reference, combining the two references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Applicant further asserts that Schrader does not cure this deficiency. Thus, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Schrader, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prosen in view of Crowley and in further view of Roethler, Chuan, and Schrader. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully incorporates the above remarks. Specifically, neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Chaun nor Schrader disclose or suggest the grip portion and the attachment portion to be on the opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. Furthermore, neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Chaun nor Schrader disclose or suggest the grip portion having an end that is coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Since neither of these elements are disclosed or suggested in the references, combining the references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to include the elements. Roethler does show the attachment portion and the grip portion on an opposite side of the first section of the hook portion from the rest of the hook portion. However, Roethler does not show or suggest the end of the grip section adjacent to or coaxial with the second section of the hook portion. Therefore, since neither Crowley nor Prosen nor Roethler nor Chaun nor Schrader, alone or in combination disclose or suggest all of the elements recited in the claims of the instant application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claim 39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwab (U.S. Patent No. 5,797,167) in view of Prosen and Crowley. Applicant asserts that claims 39 and 41 have been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwab in view of Prosen and Crowley and Vasilopoulos (U.S. Patent No. 5,722,125). Applicant asserts that claim 40 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

Remarks regarding Claim Objections

Claim 22 stands objected to because "of" was misspelled. Claim 22 has been canceled, thus the objection is moot.

Conclusion

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this Responsive Amendment, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 14-1437 for any such fees, referencing Attorney Docket No. 8106.002.US**; and Applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time not otherwise accounted for with this submission.

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